

as we confess to haue rec^d from you. But Wee are confident you doe enough understand your owne wellbeing to be so much Comprehended in Ours that you will upon all occasions extend the utmost of your abilities to assist Us, And therefore Wee haue thought fitt to impart a busines to you, wherein all well-affected persons about Vs, haue expressed great redines and allacritie to serue Vs, in undertaking severally to pay soe many of Our foot Soldiers at four shillings the weeke (for one moneth) as they think fitt, in w^{ch} w^{thout} any great burthen to themselves they aduance Our Service in a very considerable degree. Wee doe hereby recomend the consideracion to you not doubting but you will so farr express yourselves this way, that Wee shall not be disappointed of Our Expectacoñ. Wee doe assure you in the word of a King that this charge shall lye on you but one moneth beyond w^{ch} you shall not need to feare it shall be comended to you. And Our pleasure is that you retorne the names of the severall members of your Colledge who shall subscribe wth their subscripcoñs (for Wee expect this supply from particulers not from the publike stock, w^{ch} Wee beliene to be exhausted already for Our ayde) to Our Chauncello^r of Our Excheq^r within two dayes after the receipt of this Our Ire, that he may present the same to Vs, & soe Wee maye be informed of the particular who in this Our Extremity are soe sensible of Vs. And soe Wee bid you heartily farewelle. Given at Our Court at Oxford this 27th day of June 1648.

To Our trusty and welbeloued the President and Ffellowes of St John's Colledge.

Two other letters interesting in connexion with the history of the university during the period of the Rebellion are also inserted in the college register. The first, dated 8 Nov. 1646, is an order from 'the committee of the house of commons touching the breach of the articles,' ordering that tenants shall pay their dues to the college 'according to the articles of the treaty for the surrender' of the city, 'notwithstanding any restraint or order of any committee of parliament to the contrary.' The second, which is dated 20 Jan. 1647, is an order to the commission for the reformation of the university of Oxford for the removal of Dr. Baylie from the presidency of the college as 'being adjudged guilty of high contempt by denial of authority of parliament.' The vice-president is required to publish this order to the college.

W. H. HURTON.

WILLIAM GOFFE THE REGICIDE.

In the 'Dictionary of National Biography,' vol. xxii., John Goffe (born about 1610), Stephen Goffe (born 1605), and William Goffe the regicide (date of birth not given) are all said to be sons of Stephen Goffe, rector of Stanmer, in Sussex. Whatever authority there may be for this statement, the documents recently discovered at Haverfordwest leave no doubt that William Goffe was a native of

that town, whilst the following extracts from the mayor's accounts of 1614 and 1615 show that in those years a Mr. Goffe, presumably the father of the regicide, was connected with Haverfordwest:—

1614. Pd to one M^r Stivens a preacher who cam from
Ireland in M^r Goffe's absence & preached *xs.*
To M^r Burton the preacher for the like *xs.*
1615. bestowed on ij preachers fr. preaching on a
sabboth daie M^r Goffe then in London—to
either vs. *xs.*

This Mr. Goffe was either incumbent or lecturer at St. Mary's, Haverfordwest. A later entry states that Mr. John Barlow, mayor in 1628, paid 'to Mr. Goffe, the preacher, 1*l*. These entries appear to supply the link needed to complete the evidence that connects the son of the rector of Stanmer with Haverfordwest. Probably in 1628 Mr. Goffe was visiting his old home.

As for the regicide himself, in the early part of 1652 the corporation of Haverfordwest forwarded a petition to the parliament asking for relief from the crushing burden of the army assessment. The steadily increasing amount of the military tax, and its alleged unfair apportionment had been the subject of frequent remonstrances. Cromwell, before he sailed from Milford Haven for Ireland in 1649, had promised to do his best for a town which had been staunch in its loyalty to the parliament; but the Scottish war followed upon the conquest of Ireland, and nothing had come of the lord general's intercession. Meanwhile a great calamity had befallen the town. According to tradition the plague was brought to Haverfordwest on a market day by sailors from a vessel lying in Milford Haven. It appears to have been almost confined to the town and to two or three villages on the northern shore of the harbour. Haverfordwest was in a wretched plight. The markets had been closed, and the fairs had been removed to a village about six miles off, and a cordon had been drawn around the town. Yet there had been no remission of taxation, and a rate of ten shillings in the pound had proved insufficient to meet the demands of the military authorities.

'I pray,' wrote Mr. Thomas Cozens, a lawyer, then in London, to his friends at home, 'the Lord will remove his hand and our sins, and I hope in the Lord the parliament will remove their taxes.' To this lawyer was intrusted the management of the petition, which was accompanied by letters to Cromwell, Harrison, Speaker Lenthal, and others.

The following paragraph is taken from the instructions forwarded to him by the mayor and corporation in March 165 $\frac{1}{2}$:—

That if you think fitt that the Case of the towne be delivered unto some friends in writing, or that the same may be printed—and Colonell Pride and Colonell Gough being borne in the towne and were at the siege

of Pembroke, to be acquainted therewith and their assistance to be desired.

The letter from the corporation to 'their much-honoured friend Colonel William Goffe,' 1 March 165 $\frac{1}{4}$, contains the following sentence:—

The love that you were pleased to show towards this towne (being your native place) at your last being here (for wch wee blesse God for you) have emboldened us to praie your assistance in promoting our sd. grevance and petition to the Parliament and to endeavour our redresse hereon.

A few weeks later the mayor, who was Mr. Cozens's father-in-law, found it necessary to go himself to London to plead for the wretched town. On 3 May he wrote to the town council:—

Upon Thursdaie last by the means of Colonell Goffe I presented the petition of the towne to the Lord Generall himself in his withdrawing chamber (M^r Parrott and my son-in-law beinge there) who caused the same to be read and afterwards he willed it should be delivered to Major Genrall Harrison, & he that day should put him in mind of it in the howse.

Harrison was unable to attend the house that day, and so the mayor went again 'to the Lord Genrall whoe I finde very willing to further the business and soe we are still waytinge an opportunitie.'

The mayor's account of expenses for the year 1648 includes 1*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.* expended on 1 June, 'when Lift. Coll. Goffe came to towne, pd for a dinner bestowed on him and his company and for wyne & beare & Syder.'

When 'Coll. Pryde' came to the town on 7 July, a few days before the surrender of Pembroke, three shillings was paid for a 'pottle of sack.' These extracts are conclusive as to the birthplace of Goffe. There is, however, no necessary contradiction between them and the statements in the 'Dictionary of National Biography.' The rector of Stanmer may have been residing at Haverfordwest when his son William was born, and have afterwards obtained his Sussex living. The name Goffe (or Gough) was formerly more frequent in Pembrokeshire than it is at present; but the only bearer of it that I have been able to discover in the rate books of the early Stuart and Commonwealth periods was 'Balthazar Goffe, tailor.'

The statement as to Pride is, on the face of it, equally explicit, but his reception at Haverfordwest was limited to a bottle of wine at the cost of the town, and no other trace of the name has been as yet found in the municipal papers.¹

¹ According to *Mercurius Elencticus* of 8 Sept. 1649. 'Collonel John Pride, [was] a beggar, borne in a village called Ashcot, three miles from Glastonbury in the countie of Sommerset; he kept for divers years together a heard of swine for one Frye in that Pariah; his dame as yet living and her name Phillippa Frye; who, when her servant

Still it is worth noting that in Joshua Sprigg's list of parliamentary officers they both appear in Colonel Harley's regiment—Pride as lieutenant-colonel and Goffe as captain—while among the signatures to the death-warrant of the king their names stand next each other. Is it impossible that Pride as well as his brother-in-arms was a native of 'Little England beyond Wales'?

JAMES PHILLIPS.

SOME CORRESPONDENCE OF THURLOE AND MEADOWE.

When I was recently visiting New Zealand, Sir George Grey was kind enough to tell me of the existence of some original Cromwell papers in the free library at Auckland, an institution which owes much of its value to the generosity of Sir George himself.

I lost no time in following up the hint, and found what appear to be—

- a. Four original (or possibly, duplicate) letters by Thurloe.
- b. Ten by Meadowe.
- c. An original treaty between Richard Cromwell and the States-General (28 July 1659).

As these documents have not previously been printed, a short account of them may be of some little interest, though they do not contain anything of special value. One would naturally have expected to find them among the *Thurloe Papers*.

In the year 1657 war was raging between Denmark and Sweden, where the restless Charles Gustavus had succeeded to Queen Christina. Both countries were allies of England, Sweden by the Whitelock treaty of 1654, Denmark by a treaty of Westminster concluded in the same year.² Moreover, their quarrel threatened to disturb the Protector's great scheme of a northern protestant league. He was naturally most anxious to see the combatants on friendly terms.

In March 1657 therefore, Mr. (afterwards Sir Philip) Meadowe³ was instructed to visit Denmark with the object of bringing about a peace.⁴ After some delay he reached Elsinore in September, and soon obtained an interview with the Danish king at Copenhagen. His mission was received with apparent favour, but Thurloe, who

Pride left her service and would goe to London, caused a purse bee made for him in that parish, whereby she got for him between forty and fifty shillings, with which he came up to London and served a brewer in carrying of firkins, running of errands and such like.' *Elencticus* is given to the practice of telling a lie with a circumstance, but the clue is worth following up by any one interested in Pride's antecedents.—Ed. *E.H.R.*

² Jenkinson, *Treaties*, i. 76.

³ He had previously (1655) been the Protector's ambassador at Lisbon, and had had a narrow escape of assassination.

⁴ Thurloe, vi. 119.